



THE WORD LIVES

December 2018

Reflection from Sister Annette

This season of gift-giving calls us to consider the ultimate Gift given us in the person of Emmanuel . . . God-with-us . . . God-become one of us . . . God's Word incarnate.

Yet that Christmas gift is offered to us at every celebration of the Eucharist. Mother Jeanne de Matel shares this insight she received on one Holy Thursday.

It occurred to me that the Savior desired to give the world a torrent of fire. . . . accomplished by the institution of the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Divine Love, impelled by an excess of goodness, prompted the Savior to reproduce his Body and his Soul and to give us his Divine Person again.

In another reflection, she explains:

By the power of his divine word, the bread becomes flesh to live in each one of us. He has determined this manner of making an extension of his Incarnation.

She traces more specifically how we become extensions of the Incarnation--by (as St. Augustine once prompted his community's Easter neophytes) becoming what we eat.

When I receive the Incarnate Word in the Holy Eucharist, I am changed into Him. I live by Him who is spirit and life, that is to say, eternal life.

May we be able to claim the same!



Sisters Rosa Maria Ortiz, Elizabeth Close, Agueda Oviedo, Maria Elizabeth Brehony and Anna Marie Espinosa, accompanied by Associates Bill and Joyce Green, traveled to McAllen, Texas Saturday, November 24, 2018 to volunteer their services at the Catholic Charities Respite Center. The Sisters and Associates arrived about 10:30 a.m. and worked until about 5:00 p.m. First, they

assembled clothing and shoes for the group of immigrants that was due to arrive. Once the immigrants arrived, volunteers assisted with distributing meals and a change of clothing to each family. Approximately 200 immigrants, who have already been processed by the Border Patrol, are aided daily with humanitarian needs and bus tickets to their families. The facility that is currently used is small. Soon, what was a Sisters of Mercy Nursing Home will also be used by the Respite Center to accommodate the growing needs of the area. Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Brownsville is in the planning process for its own new facility in McAllen. On Saturday, Sr. Norma Piñeda came by to visit the volunteers and then went on to continue preparations at the Mercy site being rented by Catholic Charities for \$1.00 a month. Sister Norma, called "the patron saint of the Border", is featured and is on the cover of the current issue of *Texas Monthly*.



NRVC CONVOCATION

The 16th National Religious Vocation Convocation was held November 5-8 in Buffalo, NY. **Srs. Theresa Nguyen, Anna Marie Espinosa, Lou Ella Hickman and Jo Ann Saenz** attended the Conference which had the theme: *Walk with me: Encounter, Accompaniment & Invitation*. Nearly 300 participants came from 32 states in the U.S., Canada, Mexico and the United Kingdom.

The NRVC Vision Statement proclaims: "may we set the world ablaze with the fire of God's love through the prophetic, joyful witness of religious sisters, brothers and priests as radical disciples of Jesus".

Contributions for The Word Lives may be sent to Sister Rose Miriam at SecretaryGeneral@iwbacc.org by the 20th of each month.



MERCY TOWARD OUR COMMON HOME

Saturday, November 10, Maurice Lange, Director of Lebh Shomea House of Prayer near Sarita, Texas, spoke to the Sisters about our common home. He highlighted amazing facts in the story of the Universe. Some include:

- The Universe began approximately fifteen billion years ago as the primordial flaring forth of stupendous energy out of Ultimate Mystery.
- Four billion years ago, bacteria emerged—EARTH AWAKENS. Life begins!
- A little over two and a half million years ago, the first humans appeared.
- Thirty years ago Earth was seen from space.
- Today, the story continues to unfold.



On Saturday October 20, **Sr. Brenda Thompson** joined a team of Christus Spohn volunteers at the **STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER WALK**. The team sold ribbons, plaques and pins to the thousands of walkers who bravely faced the long walk on a wet, cold day. On October 2nd she participated in a 2-mile walk for the American Heart Association. She also participated in November 3rd Christus Spohn South **Annual NICU REUNION** for the tiny superheroes who graduated from the neonatal intensive care unit in past years.



January 5—Leadership Meeting

January 19 1:00-2:00p.m.
Human Trafficking Inservice

March 16-17—Spring Assembly

June 9-16—congregational retreat

Sr. Marilyn Grace Springs received confirmation from St. Thomas University that she successfully defended and passed her dissertation for her doctoral degree in Educational Leadership. Her dissertation was entitled, "Perceptions of Elementary Catholic School Principal's Effect on Catholic School Culture".

We congratulate Sr. Marilyn on her accomplishment.

Sr. Esther Mwaniki, CVI, past Superior of the Incarnate Word Sisters in Africa, said the African Region planted a rose bush on the grave of Mother Rosa Marta Gamberdinger, CVI, in memory of Sister Kathleen McDonagh, "with deep love and gratitude for all she did for our Congregation."

Sr. Marilyn Grace Springs was one of the retreat leaders for a 3-day diocesan Principals' Retreat. Her topic was "Servant Leadership: Embracing the Spiritual".

EXECUTIONS IN TEXAS

December 4, 2018

Joseph Garcia

December 11, 2018

Alvin Braziel, Jr.

You are invited to join in prayer with the Sisters of the Incarnate Word, 5201 Lipes Blvd., at 6:00 p.m. on days when prisoners are scheduled to be executed by the State of Texas.



PEACE AND JUSTICE CORNER

It is not enough to be compassionate... You must act.

-Dalai Lama

No one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark.

-Warsan Shire

The day will come when, after harnessing space, winds, the tide and gravitation, we shall harness for God the energies of love. And, on that day, for the second time in the history of the world, [humanity] will have discovered fire.

-Teilhard de Chardin

If we say we want global peace, what does that really mean? What is my image of global peace. ...For me, peace is not simply about the absence of conflict but instead, as Martin Luther King, Jr. noted, the presence of justice.

-Dr. Alan Briskin

Indifference kills; and we want to lift up our voices in opposition to this murderous indifference. We want to give a voice to those who have none...for the Middle East today is weeping, suffering and silent as others trample upon those lands in search of power or riches.

-Pope Francis

My friends, do not lose heart... please (do) not spend your spirit dry by bemoaning these difficult times. Especially do not lose hope. Most particularly because the fact is that we are made for these times.

-Clarissa Pinkola Estes

I raise up my voice – not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard.

-Malala Yousafzai

Live in such a way, that those who know you but don't know God, will come to know God...because they know you. -Author unknown